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For Immediate Release

MONTANANS TO BE HONORED FEB. 11TH FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lt. Gov. Bohlinger and First Lady Schweitzer to Participate in *ServeMontana* Awards Ceremony

serve.mt.gov

Helena – The Governor’s Office of Community Service (serve.mt.gov) and the Montana Commission on Community Service today announced the names of the Montana individuals and organizations that will be honored, on Thursday, February 11th in Helena, with a 2010 *ServeMontana* Award for their dedication and commitment to community service.

“We are excited to recognize these exceptional Montanans who are examples of how helping your neighbor can strengthen our communities,” said Jan Lombardi, Director of the Governor’s Office of Community Service.

Montana Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger will present six 2010 *ServeMontana* Awards and First Lady Nancy Schweitzer will present three *First Lady’s Math and Science* Awards. The Awards reflect the five National Service priorities (Education, Clean Energy/Environment, Healthy Futures, Veterans, Opportunity) and the *Governor and First Lady’s Math and Science Initiative* (mathscience.mt.gov) all of which are supported by the Montana Commission on Community Service.

“We are proud to be honoring these individuals and organizations, from across our state, for showing us the true spirit of civic engagement,” said Chris Kolstad, Chairman of the Montana Commission on Community Service.

Thursday’s awards ceremony luncheon will be part of the 2010 *ServeMontana* Symposium, a two-day community building conference (Feb. 10-11th) that will highlight national service and volunteerism in Montana.

What: 2010 *ServeMontana* Awards Luncheon

Date: Thursday, February 11th

Time: Noon-1:15pm

Location: Red Lion Colonial Hotel – Ballroom 1st Floor
2301 Colonial Drive – Helena, MT

First Lady's Math and Science Award Winners (in alphabetical order by location):

- Butte, MT: **Matt Vincent** – provides service learning opportunities for students and teachers to learn outdoors about environmental science, history, and restoration in the Upper Clark Fork Basin.
- Great Falls, MT: **McLaughlin Research Institute** –sponsors high school and college students, as well as teachers, to be mentored and work alongside scientists in a biomedical research lab.
- Helena, MT: **ExplorationWorks** – provides a hands-on, interactive science museum developed by community volunteers and housed in a green, sustainable building.

2010 ServeMontana Award Winners (in alphabetical order by location):

- Boulder, MT: **Heritage Center Committee** (Ellen Rae Thiel, Nancy Alley and Shirley Rogers), Community Volunteers – donated time and raised funds to open the “Heritage Center” in Boulder, in June 2009, that provides education and historical expertise about Boulder, Jefferson County and Montana.
- Darby, MT: **Darby Bread Box Committee** (Lowell Baltz, Derry Kempf Jodie Beiler, Ginny Bonnell, Mary Lockwood, Sue Birkle, Patty Conn, Pink McDonald, Jackie Trowbridge, Ned Trowbridge), Community Volunteers - created all volunteer food bank in rural town that opened in January 2010.
- Kalispell, MT/ Missoula, MT: **Zoe Zulakis**, Montana Conservation Corps/AmeriCorps (Kalispell) – Montana Justice Foundation/AmeriCorps VISTA (Missoula)–has planted hundreds of trees, weatherized homes for economically disadvantaged citizens and worked as an ambassador to improve communications and networking among AmeriCorps members in Montana.
- Lame Deer, MT: **Myrna Burgess**, St. Vincent Healthcare Foster Grandparent Program/Senior Corps. Helped expand the St. Vincent Healthcare Foster Grandparent Program on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, former tribal elected official, Sunday school teacher, a retired foster mom that has cared for more than 1800 youths in emergency child placement (since 1975)
- Lolo, MT: **Ava Cook**, Missoula Aging Services RSVP and Senior Companion Programs/Senior Corps. Established food bank in Lolo, has worked at the Missoula Food Bank every Wednesday for 17 years, has volunteered with “Hug a Pet” for seniors, Red Cross outreach, and the Ronald McDonald House and more. Since joining Missoula Aging Services in 2003, has logged over 8,000 hours as a volunteer.
- Thompson Falls, MT: **Don Burrell**, Community Volunteer – Army veteran, lifetime Montanan, provides transportation to those who need it (drives a van taking veterans to area VA centers, helps neighbors get to doctor’s appointments and grocery shop), former President of the Thompson Falls Food Bank, received 2008 Sanders County Community Service Award.

For more information about the 2010 *ServeMontana* Symposium, visit the website:
serve.mt.gov

The 2010 *ServeMontana* Symposium is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Community Service (serve.mt.gov), the Montana Commission on Community Service, Montana Office of Public Instruction (opi.state.mt.us) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (nationalservice.gov), an independent federal agency dedicated to improving lives, strengthening communities, and fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering.

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